Outcome 5 - Accessibility

Roger Johnston pushes grandson Blake Evans at Porirua's Victory Park.

"We access all places, services and information with ease and dignity"
New Zealand Disability Strategy, 2016-2026

Housing, transport and public places should be free of barriers to enable all people, regardless of their disability, to participate, contribute and enjoy on an equal basis with non-disabled people.

Strategy In Action
Playable Porirua

The vision of Porirua City Council's Playable Porirua Project is to create "a playable city where all children can play together in the region's playgrounds and parks, whatever their abilities or disabilities".

Community groups Plimmerton Rotary and Plimmerton Inner Wheel originally approached the Council with an idea to make one or two of the region's playgrounds more wheelchair-friendly. Coincidentally at about the same time, Otago University researchers asked the Council to carry out an assessment of the region's parks, so the idea grew into a project to review and improve all 41 Porirua playgrounds.

Porirua City Council Parks Manager Olivia Dovey says we've got some fabulous playgrounds in Porirua. "We want everyone to get the enjoyment and health benefits from using our parks and playgrounds, so we're thrilled to be partnering with these groups and organisations to speed up our goal of enabling everyone to access them."

Otago University has designed and piloted a survey tool that Rotary and Inner Wheel members are now using to evaluate Porirua's parks. It's a real community-led initiative.

"The information will be collated and analysed by the University. We'll consult with Porirua residents with disabilities and their caregivers on what needs to be done, and then work with Rotary and the Inner Wheel to fund and implement the necessary improvements," says Ms Dovey.

"It's an ongoing project. The public will start to see results over the next few years, mainly around access pathways and new, accessible pieces of play equipment, but there are likely to be many other small changes too."

Resources

Building accessibility

The Building Act, Building Code and Building Standard NZS4121 governs the requirements for building accessibility.

➡ download the Standard from the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment website **standards.govt.nz/assets/Publication-files/NZS4121-2001.pdf?utm_source+MBIE**

Malatest International has published a Review of Access for People with Disabilities. Available online.

➡ website **malatest-intl.com/portfolio-items/review-of-access-for-people-with-disabilities**

Civil emergency

Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management has some useful publications on its website: Including People with Disabilities and a factsheet on recognising Disability Assist Dogs in emergencies

➡ website **civildefence.govt.nz**

Community accessibility

Barrier Free Trust New Zealand encourages, promotes and facilitates the creation of built environments that are accessible and usable by everyone.

➡ a helpline on access requirements on **027 225 5334** or **technical@barrierfreenz.org.nz**

➡ website **barrierfree.org.nz**

Community Matters website includes a Marae accessibility toolkit

➡ website **communitymatters.govt.nz/vwluResources/publications-MaraeAccessibilityToolkit/$file/publications-MaraeAccessibilityToolkit.pdf**

Office for Disability Issues

The Office for Disability Issues website provides a range of resources aimed at improving accessibility for disabled people:

➡ accessible city maps - **odi.govt.nz/guidance-and-resources/accessible-city-maps**

➡ running accessible meetings - **odi.govt.nz/running-accessible-meetings**

Transport accessibility

The Ministry of Transport has published a report on The accessibility of public transport for those with a disability. The report summarises the findings of the Accessible Journey stocktake that was undertaken as part of the Disability Action Plan 2014/2018.

➡ website **transport.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/About/Documents/Accessibility-report.pdf**

Web accessibility

There are two web standards that government organisations need to meet: Web Accessibility Standard 1.0 and Web Usability Standard 1.2.

➡ website **ict.govt.nz/guidance-and-resources/standards-compliance/web-standards**

D Office for
Disability Issues
Te Tari Mō Ngā Take Hauātanga
Administered by the Ministry of Social Development

For more information visit **odi.govt.nz**
or email **odi@msd.govt.nz**

New Zealand Government